

## TRANSPORTATION WEEKLY

### UPDATE - SENATE AMENDMENT STATUS AND LIST

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009 - 11:00 A.M.

The Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. this morning and is continuing to debate H.R. 1, the economic stimulus bill.

Yesterday, the Senate came two votes short of the 60 votes necessary to waive the Budget Act and declare \$25 billion in extra transportation and infrastructure spending offered by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) as an off-budget emergency. However, that action only struck the emergency designation from the amendment - the rest of the amendment remains pending.

Many amendments were filed (submitted and printed in the Congressional Record) during yesterday's session, some of which are related to transportation or public works. Those amendments are listed and summarized below. Of particular interest are #s 169, 182, 183, and 185. The text of all amendments submitted yesterday may be viewed in the Senate section of yesterday's Congressional Record under "Text of Amendments" on the THOMAS website at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Amendments filed in the Senate to the stimulus bill as of close of business on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.

(All amendments are to the Inouye-Baucus amendment #98 in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 1.)

Excerpt – amendments related to transportation and infrastructure ONLY.

As of close of business on Feb. 3, only #s 110, 140, and 179 had been formally offered on the Senate floor and are still pending business.

#110 by Ms. Murray to add \$25 billion in additional appropriations with no spending offset - \$13 billion for highways, \$5 billion for mass transit, and \$7 billion for water and wastewater treatment plants.

#126 by Ms. McCaskill to allow EPA state and tribal assistance grant appropriations to be used to forgive prior grants as well as prior principal and negative interest loans.

#130 by Mr. Inhofe striking the requirement that \$6 billion of the \$9.048 billion appropriation for the GSA Federal Buildings Fund shall be used for "green buildings."

#136 by Mr. Vitter providing that all FY 2010 appropriations that remain unobligated after September 30, 2010 are rescinded.

#140 by Mr. Feingold and Mr. McCain amending the Budget Act to create points of order in the Senate against unauthorized appropriations in general appropriations bills, amendments between the Houses, and conference reports, and amending the Lobbying Disclosure Act to provide that all recipients of federal funding awards, grants and loans must file paperwork naming all lobbyists retained by the recipient.

#141 by Mr. Ensign providing that all FY 2009 appropriations that remain unobligated after September 30, 2010 are rescinded.

#162 by Mr. Bond striking the \$2 billion appropriation for high-speed rail corridors.

#167 by Mr. DeMint providing that any project funded by this Act is not subject to the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act.

#169 by Mr. Bond, Ms. Boxer, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Baucus, and others striking the \$5.5 billion appropriation for discretionary surface transportation grants under the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, transferring that money to highway formula grants, and removing the requirement that highway and transit funds left unobligated after one year be transferred to the discretionary grant program.

#175 by Mr. Coburn providing that no funds provided by this Act may be used for any casino or other gambling establishment, aquarium, zoo, golf course, swimming pool, stadium, community park, museum, theater, arts center, or highway beautification project, including renovation, remodeling, construction, salaries, furniture, zero-gravity chairs, big screen televisions, beautification, rotating pastel lights, and dry heat saunas.

#176 by Mr. Coburn prohibiting no-bid contracts and earmarks by requiring all contracts to be awarded in accordance with existing federal law requiring that all grants and cooperative agreements be competitively awarded.

#179 by Mr. Vitter eliminating a variety of appropriations from the bill

including the \$248 million for a new Department of Homeland Security headquarters building, the \$850 million for Amtrak capital grants, and the \$2 billion for high-speed rail corridors, and providing that the Davis-Bacon Act does not apply to projects funded by the bill.

#182 by Mr. Rockefeller appropriating an additional \$550 million (with no offset) to the FAA to accelerate the transition to the Next Generation Air Transportation System.

#183 by Mr. Rockefeller providing a "clean" extension of the taxes and spending authority for the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, of the contract authority for the Airport Improvement Program, and of certain war risk insurance to September 30, 2009.

#185 by Mr. Schumer, Mr. Specter, and others increasing the appropriation for FTA transit formula grants by an additional \$2 billion and directing the Secretary of Transportation to make formula grant funds available to pay for operating expenses to the extent that a transit authority demonstrates to his or her satisfaction that such funds are necessary to continue current services or expand such services to meet increased ridership, adding a new \$2.5 billion appropriation for FTA new starts, and adding a new \$2 billion appropriation for FTA fixed guideway modernization formula grants. (\$4.5 billion in new spending in total, with no cost offset.)

#202 by Mr. Sanders providing that highway funding provided by the bill shall not be subject to 23 U.S.C. 133(c) (which prohibits funds for local or rural minor collector roads) or to any other provision of law that restricts the use of those funds for projects relating to local or rural roads or bridges.

#203 by Mr. Sanders lowering the minimum project size for the \$5.5 billion discretionary surface transportation project program from \$20 million to \$1 million.